

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: ILO, AORG

SUBJECT: ILO - NEW DIRECTIONS ITEM FOR GENEVA GROUP

DISCUSSION JUNE 4, 1974

REF: LAWRENCE TO HEATER LETTER, APRIL 8, 1974

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUGGESTION CONTAINED IN REFERENCED LETTER, FOLLOWING DRAFT TEXT OF PROPOSED ILO NEW DIRECTIONS DISCUSSION PAPER FOR JUNE 4 GENEVA GROUP MEETING IS BEING TRANSMITTED TO MISSION FOR ITS COMMENTS. YOU SHOULD REGARD THIS AS AN INTERNAL IO DRAFT WHICH PRESENTLY HAS NO STATUS AS AN INSTRUCTION. IT IS CURRENTLY BEING SUBMITTED TO WASHINGTON AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH ILO FOR THEIR COMMENTS, AND WILL BE REVISED TO TAKE THOSE COMMENTS AS WELL AS GENEVA'S INTO ACCOUNT.

2. BEGIN DRAFT TEXT:

A. OBJECTIVES

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(1) TO GIVE THE GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO

FORMULATE A COLLECTIVE VIEW ON THE FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE ILO, BASED ON THEIR OWN NATIONAL, TRIPARTITE EXPERIENCE.

(2) TO ARRIVE AT AN AGREED SET OF PROGRAM OBJECTIVES THAT THE GENEVA GROUP CAN PUT BEFORE THE DIRECTOR GENERAL IN A

COORDINATED MANNER, AND SUBSEQUENTLY SUPPORT IN THE GOVERNING BODY AND IN THE CONFERENCE.

(3) TO INSURE THAT THE ILO'S PROGRAM WILL CONTAIN ELEMENTS THAT ARE OF DIRECT INTEREST TO THE GENEVA GROUP COUNTRIES, INSURING A CONTINUING INTEREST OF THESE COUNTRIES IN THE ILO.

(4) TO DISTILL, FROM THE COLLECTIVE EXPERIENCE OF THE GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS, RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW PROGRAM AREAS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE ILO ON BEHALF OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

B. WHY IS THE LONG-TERM PLAN NOT ADEQUATE FOR THESE PURPOSES?

THE LONG-TERM PLAN IS AN OFFICE PRODUCT. EVEN THOUGH IT IS REVIEWED BY THE GOVERNING BODY, IT IS PREPARED FROM THE OFFICE POINT OF VIEW, AND REFLECTS THE INSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL PRESSURES THAT BESET THE OFFICE.

WE WANT TO TAKE A FORWARD LOOK IN AN ATMOSPHERE THAT IS FREE FROM THESE PRESSURES, A LOOK THAT WILL REFLECT THE COMMON INTERESTS OF THE MAJOR WESTERN DONORS. THE GENEVA GROUP'S VIEW OF THE FUTURE MAY OR MAY NOT BE IDENTICAL TO THAT OF THE OFFICE. THE PROBABILITY IS THAT IT WILL NOT BE, AND IT IS THIS PROBABILITY THAT JUSTIFIES A GENEVA GROUP INITIATIVE THAT IS SEPARATE FROM THE LONG-TERM PLAN.

C. TECHNIQUES

ALTHOUGH GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS MAY DECIDE ON DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO MAKING SUCH FORECASTS, THE FOLLOWING STEPS WOULD APPEAR TO BE USEFUL TO GOVERNMENTS:

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(1) CONSULTATION WITH THEIR OWN LABOR AND SOCIAL MINISTRIES TO DETERMINE WHAT THE MINISTRIES SEE AS THE MAJOR PROBLEMS OVER THE NEXT DECADE THAT WILL HAVE INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS THAT COULD LEND THEMSELVES TO USEFUL INTERVENTION BY THE ILO.

(2) CONSULTATION WITH WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS GROUPS TO

DETERMINE WHAT INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS THEY SEE AS BEING OF GREATEST CONCERN TO THEM.

(3) CONSULTATION WITH MINISTRIES AND OTHER AGENCIES ENGAGED IN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TO DETERMINE WHAT NEW AREAS OF ILO ACTIVITY THEY BELIEVE WOULD BE OF BENEFIT

TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS WOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE IDEAS IN THIS AREA.

EACH GENEVA GROUP MEMBER WOULD DECIDE WHETHER TO USE THESE SOURCES EXCLUSIVELY, OR WHETHER TO SUPPLEMENT THEM WITH OTHER SOURCES SUCH AS PRIVATE CONSULTANTS OR UNIVERSITY GROUPS. WHOM THEY CONSULT AND HOW THEY MAKE THEIR FORECASTS WOULD BE UP TO THE GOVERNMENTS, ALTHOUGH WE FEEL IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE FOR THEM TO CONSULT WITH WORKER AND EMPLOYER ORGANIZATIONS IN ORDER TO HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THEIR EXPERIENCE AND GAIN THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT MAY BE MADE TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL.

IN SHORT, WE PROPOSE THAT GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS BASE THEIR FORECASTS ON THEIR OWN DOMESTIC EXPERIENCE, AND ON THEIR OWN BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE EXPERIENCE. IF SEVERAL GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS PROVE TO SHARE THE VIEW THAT A GIVEN DOMESTIC NEED, DOES LEND ITSELF TO ILO TREATMENT, THEN THIS NEED WOULD BE COMMUNICATED TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL. WITH RESPECT TO SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, IT WOULD BE UP TO THESE COUNTRIES, THEMSELVES, TO CONSIDER WHETHER OR NOT THEY WISHED TO INCORPORATE ANY OF THESE SUGGESTIONS IN THEIR COUNTRY PROGRAMS. NEVERTHELESS, THE GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS MAY HAVE AN INSIGHT INTO THE LABOR PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THAT THESE COUNTRIES WOULD FIND VALUABLE.

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THE EXPERIENCE OF THE GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS THAT WILL HAVE A BEARING IS NOT LIMITED TO THAT WHICH IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE ILO, BUT MAY BE RELATED TO LABOR AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS NOT YET WITHIN THE AREA OF THE ILO'S CONCERN.

WHEN THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS HAVE COMPLETED THEIR ANALYSES, EACH WOULD PRESENT A PAPER DESCRIBING HIS PROPOSED NEW COURSES OF ACTION, AND THE GENEVA GROUP WOULD THEN REVIEW ALL OF THE PROPOSALS TO SEE WHICH HAD MAJORITY SUPPORT. THOSE HAVING MAJORITY SUPPORT WOULD THEN BE DESCRIBED IN A PAPER TO BE DRAFTED IN GENEVA AND CLEARED WITH CAPITALS, AND PRESENTED TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR HIS CONSIDERATION. THE PURPOSE IN PRESENTING THE PAPER TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL WOULD BE TO ENLIST HIS COOPERATION IN GETTING SOME

OR ALL OF THE PROPOSALS WORKED INTO THE LONG-TERM PLANS COVERING THE PERIOD 1978-87.

THERE WOULD THEN BE CONTINUING, COORDINATED SUPPORT BY THE GENEVA GROUP OF THESE NEW DIRECTIONS OF ACTION IN THE GOVERNING BODY AND THE CONFERENCE.

D. HOW DO THESE TECHNIQUES DIFFER FROM THOSE FIRST PROPOSED?

WE INITIALLY PROPOSED AS A POINT OF DEPARTURE THE COLLECTIVE, IN-DEPTH EXAMINATION OF THE PRESENT PROGRAMS OF THE ILO TO DETERMINE WHICH SEEMED TO HAVE A LONG-RANGE VALIDITY AND WHICH DID NOT. THIS WOULD HAVE INVOLVED A GREAT RESEARCH EFFORT, AND WE REALIZED AT THE TIME THAT GOVERNMENTS MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO DEVOTE THE NECESSARY RESOURCES TO SUCH A STUDY. FROM THE DISCUSSIONS THUS FAR, IT HAS BECOME EVIDENT THAT THE GENEVA GROUP IS NOT ABLE TO CARRY OUT A THOROUGH AND DETAILED STUDY OF THE ILO'S PRESENT PROGRAM; THE RESOURCES ARE SIMPLY NOT AVAILABLE. HOWEVER, THE STUDY OF THE PRESENT ILO PROGRAMS IS ONLY ONE POSSIBLE POINT OF DEPARTURE. ANOTHER, AND THE ONE WE ARE NOW PROPOSING, IS THE EXAMINATION OF NATIONAL AND BILATERAL EXPERIENCE IN THE LABOR AND SOCIAL FIELD. WE BELIEVE THIS APPROACH WILL REQUIRE FAR LESS OF AN INPUT OF TIME AND MONEY.

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THE OBJECT OF OUR INITIATIVE REMAINS THE SAME: TO SEE WHAT ACTIVITIES WE, AS A GROUP, THINK THE ILO SHOULD ADD TO ITS PROGRAM IN THE MEDIUM-RANGE FUTURE.

E. STUDY AREAS

THE SUBJECTS THAT WE PROPOSED ARE MERELY ILLUSTRATIVE. THEY ARE THE AREAS IN WHICH THE ILO APPEARS MOST LIKELY TO ENCOUNTER DEMANDS FOR ITS SERVICES--THE TRADITIONAL AREAS OF ITS ACTIVITY. GOVERNMENTS MAY FIND NEW ASPECTS OF THESE TRADITIONAL AREAS THAT SHOULD BE SO GREATLY EXPANDED AS TO CONSTITUTE THE EQUIVALENT OF NEW PROGRAMS, OR THEY MAY PROPOSE TOTALLY NEW AREAS. THE NEW DIRECTIONS COULD BE AS NARROW AS, FOR EXAMPLE, A SPECIFIC VOCATIONAL SKILL PROGRAM; OR, THEY COULD BE BROAD FIELDS COMPARABLE IN SPREAD TO THE EXISTING PROGRAMS IN WORKER EDUCATION OR MANAGEMENT TRAINING.

F. TIMING

ON JUNE 4, THE GENEVA GROUP SHOULD DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:

(1) THE DESIRABILITY OF HAVING A GENEVA GROUP ACTION OF ANY KIND TO DETERMINE NEW DIRECTIONS FOR THE ILO; I.E., A GENEVA GROUP ACTION THAT IS NOT MADE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE OFFICE, BUT IS PRESENTED TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL ONLY AS A FINAL DRAFT SUMMING UP THE GENEVA GROUP'S COLLECTIVE JUDGMENT.

(2) THE FEASIBILITY OF SUCH AN ACTION. IS IT A JOB THAT, EVEN THOUGH DESIRABLE, CAN REALLY BE CARRIED OUT, OR DOES IT APPEAR THAT USEFUL RESULTS WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE?

(3) THE UTILITY OF SUCH AN ACTION. WILL A SEPARATE GENEVA GROUP ASSESSMENT BE LIKELY TO PRODUCE RESULTS OF SUCH VALUE, IN CONTRAST TO THE RESULTS THAT CAN BE EXPECTED FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S LONG-TERM PLAN, AS TO JUSTIFY THE EFFORT AND EXPENSE INVOLVED IN MAKING IT?

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(4) STUDY AREAS. ARE THOSE AREAS ALREADY PROPOSED THE RIGHT ONES, OR ARE OTHERS LIKELY TO BE MORE PRODUCTIVE? SHOULD SPECIFIC AREAS BE ASSIGNED AT ALL, OR SHOULD MEMBERS SIMPLY START OUT TO ANALYZE A BROAD RANGE OF POSSIBLE ILO FUTURE ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOP THEIR OWN SUBJECTS?

AT THIS MEETING, THERE WOULD BE AN AGREEMENT TO PROCEED OR NOT TO PROCEED, AND IF THE FORMER, THEN SOME OR ALL MEMBERS WOULD CONFIRM THEIR INTENTIONS TO ANALYZE SPECIFIC STUDY AREAS AND REPORT BACK IN NOVEMBER.

AT THE NOVEMBER 1974 SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY, THERE WOULD BE A DISCUSSION OF THE RESULTS OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY ANALYSES, AND AN ATTEMPT TO REACH AGREEMENT ON WHICH PROPOSALS HAVE MAJORITY SUPPORT.

AT THE 12TH CONSULTATIVE LEVEL MEETING OF THE GENEVA GROUP, THE RESULTS OF THE EFFORTS TO THAT TIME SHOULD BE REVIEWE

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